Rethinking on Five Year Plan

3811. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are rethinking on Five Year Plan and go for annual plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no rethinking on Five Year Plan and go for annual plan. However, the Prime Minister in this remarks in the meeting of the Full Planning Commission raised certain issues regarding five year planning process. He stated, "Is 5 years a sufficient time span for taking a long term view on infrastructure development? Most of the creative discussions in a budget exercise focus on Plan expenditure. If so, is it essential to wait for five year intervals to re-engage in a planning effort or can we do this on an annual basis for certain areas and on a longer basis for others?"

Amount for Poverty Alleviation

†3812. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of the population living below poverty line is decreasing in the country;

(b) the amount spent on the poverty alleviation programme during the last three years by Government, year-wise;

(c) the programmes being implemented at present; and

(d) the name of the States which requires maximum share in the total budget of poverty alleviation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and state level from the large sample surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest such survey was conducted in 1999-2000 (NSS 55th Round). The poverty ratios estimated from the last three large sample survey data for the years

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.